

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An image data transfer system comprising an image information reading apparatus for reading image data representing an image from a sheet having the image recorded therein and an image display apparatus connected to the image information reading apparatus by a network, the image data read by the image information reading apparatus being transferred to the image display apparatus and the image display apparatus displaying the image data as a visible image, wherein

the image information reading apparatus comprises a buffer memory for storing the image data for the sheet and sequentially stores in the buffer memory the image data obtained at the time of reading the image data while sequentially outputting the image data from the buffer memory, wherein the buffer memory outputs data at a variable rate depending on a data transfer rate of the network.

2. (previously presented): The image data transfer system according to claim 1, wherein the image display apparatus is separately and independently housed from the image information reading apparatus.

3. (previously presented): The image data transfer system according to claim 1, wherein the network utilizes one of Ethernet, Universal Serial Bus and FireWire (IEEE 1394) connection.

4. (previously presented): The image data transfer system according to claim 1, wherein the image display apparatus sequentially displays the image data from a first image from the buffer memory of the image information reading apparatus while the image information reading apparatus reads the image data of said first image from the sheet.

5-8. (canceled).

9. (previously presented): The system of claim 2, wherein the buffer memory is incorporated in a housing of the image information reading apparatus.

10. (canceled).

11. (previously presented): An image data transfer system comprising an image information reading apparatus for reading image data representing an image from a sheet having the image recorded therein and an image display apparatus connected to the image information reading apparatus by a network, the image data read by the image information reading apparatus being transferred to the image display apparatus and the image display apparatus displaying the image data as a visible image, wherein

the image information reading apparatus comprises a buffer memory for storing the image data for the sheet and sequentially stores in the buffer memory the image data obtained at the time of reading the image data while sequentially outputting the image data from the buffer memory, wherein the buffer memory retransmits the image data in the event of data loss during transfer over the network.

12. (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the image information reading apparatus further comprises an erasing unit for erasing data from the sheet after reading out the image recorded therein.

13. (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the image information is medical information.

14. (new): The system of claim 1, wherein the number of devices connected to the network remains constant during operation.

15. (new): The system of claim 11, wherein the number of devices connected to the network remains constant during operation.

16. (new): The system of claim 1, wherein the buffer memory is of sufficient size to hold the entire image data from the sheet.

17. (new): The system of claim 11, wherein the buffer memory is of sufficient size to hold the entire image data from the sheet.

18. (new): The system of claim 1, wherein the image data obtained at the time of reading the image data is sequentially stored in the buffer memory and is simultaneously sequentially output from the buffer memory, wherein the buffer memory outputs data at a variable rate depending on a data transfer rate of the network.

19. (new): The system of claim 11, wherein the image data obtained at the time of reading the image data is sequentially stored in the buffer memory and is simultaneously sequentially output from the buffer memory, wherein the buffer memory outputs data at a variable rate depending on a data transfer rate of the network.